

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form**

B-5130  
Survey No. B-47681

## 1. Name

Historic 700 - 730 South Durham Street  
and / common

## 2. Location

street & number 700 - 730 South Durham Street  
city, town Baltimore  
state & zip code Maryland 21231 county

## 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	X occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
X building(s)	X private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	X private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	X yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name  
street & number telephone  
city, town state & zip code

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber  
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio  
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title  
date federal state county local  
depository for survey records  
city, town state & zip code

## 7. Description

Condition		Check One	Check One
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved:
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move: _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The west side of the 700 block of S. Durham St. is comprised of several different groups of two- and three-story, two-bay-wide brick rowhouses, dating from c. 1830 to c. 1885. Some of the three-story houses may have been early experiments in tenement housing of a form found only in Fells Point and southwest Baltimore. This particular row is also quite typical of the ways in which the older rowhouses in Baltimore have been "improved" over the years, with either formstone or a sensitive restoration, reflecting the different tastes of different owners.

700 – 702 S. Durham St. are a pair of two-and-a-half story Federal-period houses, built c. 1830. The houses are constructed in running bond and would always have been painted; now they have been "restored" to the bare brick. The houses are two rooms deep with a one-story rear kitchen addition. The paired chimneys are located at the peak of the gable roof. Door and window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels, composed of a double row of headers, and wood sills. 702 has new scroll-sawn tympanum that would not have been an original part of the house. The window openings are filled with either 6/6 (702) or 1/1 sash (700) replacement sash. 700 has a single-light transom and a replacement door; 702 has a new three-light transom and a modern six-panel door. The houses sit on low basements, each entrance being reached by a single brick step.

704 – 706 S. Durham St. are a pair of two-bay-wide, two-story brick houses with the low-pitched gable roof typical of a type of Baltimore rowhouse built in the 1850s and 1860s to serve the housing needs of the city's growing working class population. The houses are covered with formstone and all original details are obscured. The gable roof has a simple brick corbelled cornice and the houses are probably constructed in common bond, with flat wood lintels and sills. All windows have 1/1 replacement sash and the doors are modern replacements. Originally, each doorway had a single-light transom, one of which has been covered over. An arched sallyport runs back in the center of the pair. The houses sit on low basements, each entrance being reached by a single brick step.

**Continuation sheet**

708 – 712 S. Durham St. are a very interesting group of narrow, three-story houses with shed roofs and simple brick modillion cornices built c. 1870. They were built either as tenement houses or as inexpensive housing for slightly more prosperous families who needed more room than a two-story house would allow. They are constructed in common bond and were always painted. Door and window openings have flat wood lintels and sills. Windows are filled with either 1/1 or 6/6 replacement sash. Doorways have a narrow single-light transom and show a mix of replacement door styles. The houses sit on low basements, each entrance being reached by a single brick or stone step.

724 – 730 S. Durham St. are four individually-built houses, each of which has its own arched sallyport located within the house. All of the houses sit on low basements, each entrance being reached by a single brick step. 724 is a three-story house with shed roof and sheet metal cornice that may represent an enlargement of an earlier, gable-roofed house. The house is two-rooms deep with a chimney located near the front and rear of the house. The house is constructed in running bond and was always painted. Door and window openings have segmentally-arched brick lintels and brick sills. Windows are filled with 6/6 replacement sash. The doorway has a single-light transom, which has been covered with aluminum siding and a modern replacement door.

726 is a two-story brick house with the low-pitched gable roof typical of a type of Baltimore rowhouse built in the 1850s and 1860s to serve the housing needs of the city's growing working class population. The house is covered with formstone and all original details are obscured. The gable roof has a simple brick corbelled cornice and the houses are probably constructed in common bond, with segmentally arched brick lintels, and wood sills. All windows have 1/1 replacement sash. The doorway has a single-light transom and a modern replacement door.

728 is a three-story late Italianate-style house with shed roof and wooden scroll-sawn bracketed cornice, built c. 1885. The house is constructed in running bond and was always painted. The wooden cornice consists of a crown molding supported by three long scroll-sawn brackets, decorated with grooves, that connect to a lower molding strip and end in a distinct trefoil pattern. The upper wooden frieze area is decorated with a row of scroll-sawn modillions that help support the crown molding and a lower row of tiny dentils. The brick frieze area framed by the long brackets and the lower molding strip, is decorated with two rectangular jig-sawn panels that help provide ventilation to the attic. The first floor has been converted into a garage and a garage door replaces the original door and window. The second and third-floor window openings have segmentally-arched brick lintels, composed of a double row of headers set to create a decorative effect, and brick sills. Windows are filled with 6/6 replacement sash.

730 is a three-story, gable-roofed house built c. 1850. The house is constructed in running bond and was always painted. There is a simple brick corbelled cornice. Door and window openings have segmentally-arched brick lintels, composed of a double row of headers, and brick sills. Windows are filled with 6/6 replacement sash. The doorway has a single-light transom and a modern replacement door.

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Survey No. ~~B-4768b~~

B-5130

## 8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

**Specific dates** c. 1830 - 1885

**Builder/Architect**

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The group of houses on the west side of the 700 block of S. Durham St. is significant in that it contains a pair of houses dating to the period of Fells Point's importance as a maritime center in the first part of the nineteenth century, and also contains later, up-to-date infill houses dating from the later nineteenth century. It is also significant as representing a healthy city neighborhood that has been inhabited by people taking care of their homes for over one-hundred-and-seventy-five years, and like many neighborhoods of this type, most of the houses were covered with formstone in the 1950s and 1960s.

The houses were built according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and northeast of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. Typically, in this period, main street houses might sell for \$1,200 to \$1,500; small street houses for \$700 - \$900. Occasionally, the builder retained ownership of his small street houses to provide income for himself as rental properties, or sold them to other investors. In this way people of varying means could afford to live in the same block. If they couldn't afford the purchase price of the small street houses, then they *could* afford the \$8 or so a month it would cost to rent one, while they saved to be able to buy their own home later.

The two-and-a-half story houses were built at a time when Fells Point was already an important ship building center for the growing town of Baltimore. Early occupants included people involved in the maritime trades, small-scale craftsmen, and laborers who made their homes in the smaller scale and more affordable housing located on the small "alley" streets of Fells Point. Until about 1850 Durham Street was known as Happy Alley and its occupants were racially mixed. The Italianate-style houses were built c. 1875 to accommodate the growing labor force centered around the Fells Point waterfront and its growing businesses, like oyster and fruit packing companies.

The houses are especially significant as being located in the oldest part of Fells Point, only a few blocks from the water, and represent an integral part of the history of this National Register district. Slated for demolition in the 1960s as part of the planned East-West highway connection existing segments of I-95 to the north and south of the city, these houses were saved by local preservation activists who created the Fells Point National Register District in 1969.

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B-5130  
Survey No. ~~B-47685~~

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*  
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

## 10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

## 11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

city, town Baltimore

date

telephone

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of rights.

Return to:

DHCP/DHCD

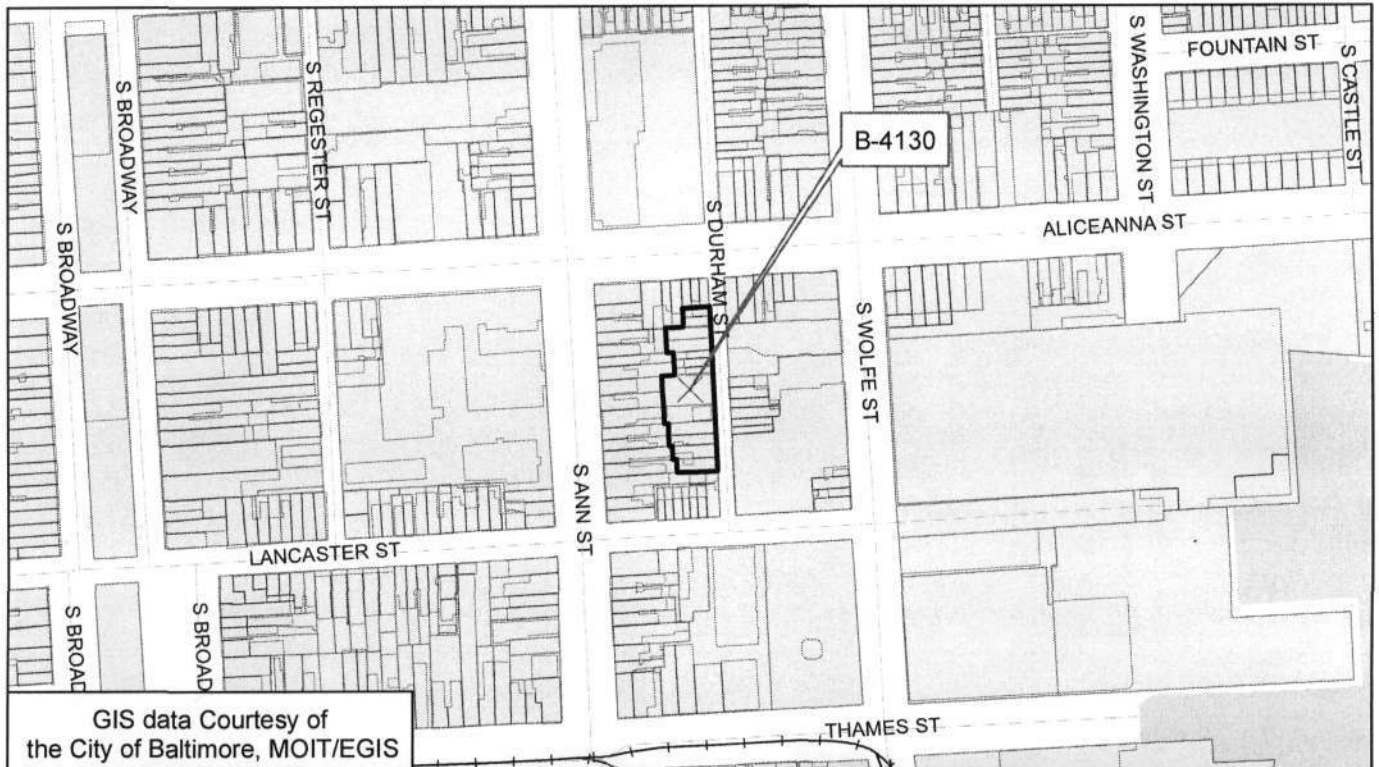
Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

Crownsville MD 21032-2023



B-5130  
700-730 S. Durham Street  
Block 1846 Lots 079-064  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.





700-702 S Durham

FPL

B-5130

700-730 S. Durham H.

BALTO. MD

C. Belfiore

12/97

MD SAPC

1/7

RECORDED





704-706 S Durham

FP6

B-5/30

700-730 S Durham St.

BAITO. MID

C. Belfiore

12/97

2/7



700-712 S Durham  
FP6

B-5130  
700-730 S. Durham St  
BACTO-MD  
C. Belknap  
12/97  
3/7





724 S Durham

B-5130

700-730 S. Durham St.

BALTO. MD

C. Zelfonne

12/97

4/7

EDWARDS



726 S Durham  
FD6

B-5130

700-730 S. Durham St

BALTO. MD

C. Behrman

12/17

5/7



728 S Durham

FP4

B-5130

700-730 S. Durham St.

BALTO MD

C. Bellmore

12/97

6/7





730 S Durham  
FD4

BT 5130

700-730 S. Durham St.

BALTO, MD

C. Belfonne

12/97

7/7